

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Investigation and Order to Show Cause on the Commission's Own Motion into the Operations and Practices of Pacific Gas and Electric Company with respect to Facilities Records for its Natural Gas Distribution System Pipelines.

Investigation 14-11-008
(Filed November 20, 2014)

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to November 20, 2016.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code Section 1701.2(d) provides that adjudicatory cases shall be resolved within 12 months of the date that they are initiated unless the Commission makes findings as to why that deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline.

On November 20, 2014, the Commission opened this Investigation and issued an Order to Show Cause in response to six incidents that called into question the safety of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) natural gas distribution system. Each incident is summarized in the Commission's Order, and all involve distribution system facilities either being inaccurately mapped or facility specifications being incorrectly recorded. On December 22, 2014, PG&E filed its Initial Report on the incidents which, as required by the Commission's

Order, included “all reasons of fact and law” that supported a conclusion that PG&E “has committed no violation of law with respect to its gas distribution recordkeeping.” PG&E also set forth its efforts to enhance gas distribution system recordkeeping accuracy, accessibility, and controls, as well as operational safety improvements. PG&E responded to the Order’s allegations that it had violated statutory provisions and Commission regulations with its own legal analysis, including due process objections.

The assigned Administrative Law Judge convened a PHC on March 9, 2015. A procedural schedule was adopted, and the parties presented issues of extending the *ex parte* ban to procedural inquiries and whether the remedies to be considered in this proceeding should include ratemaking disallowances.

On April 10, 2015, the assigned Commissioner issued her Scoping Memo and Ruling which set the procedural schedule for this proceeding. Pursuant to that schedule, the initial round of testimony has been filed, with more to be filed in November, and evidentiary hearings scheduled for January. This complex and data intensive proceeding is well underway with the formal hearing process expected to conclude in the first half of 2016.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving adjudicatory proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Carla Peterman is the assigned Commissioner and Maribeth A. Bushey is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The Investigation was initiated on November 20, 2014.
2. The scoping memo was issued on April 10, 2015.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline is necessary to allow the Commission to complete the procedural schedule adopted in the scoping memo.
4. The statutory deadline should be extended for one year to allow for potential appeals and/or requests for review of a Presiding Officer's Decision.

Conclusions of Law

1. The statutory deadline imposed by Public Utilities Code Section 1701.2(d) should be extended until November 20, 2016.
2. This order should be effective immediately.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until November 20, 2016.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.